

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A digital camera comprising:

an image sensing unit for sensing a subject image;

5 a detector for detecting a degree of correlation between
image data of a plurality of frames from said image sensing unit
before shooting;

an exposure controller for, in a case where the degree
of correlation is low as a result of the detection by said
detector, controlling an exposure time of said image sensing
10 unit so as to be shorter than an exposure time in a case where
the degree of correlation is high; and

a recorder for recording image data from said image
sensing unit controlled by said exposure controller.

2. A digital camera according to claim 1, further
15 comprising a comparator for comparing a pixel level difference
between the images of a plurality frames with a predetermined
threshold value.

3. A digital camera according to claim 2, wherein said
detector detects the degree of correlation according to the
20 number of the pixels for which the same comparison result is
obtained.

4. A digital camera according to claim 3, wherein said
detector detects the degree of correlation according to the
ratio between the number of the pixels and a predetermined
25 number of pixels.

5. A digital camera according to claim 2, wherein said detector detects the degree of correlation according to the sum of the pixels for which the pixel level difference is not less than the predetermined threshold value.

5 6. A digital camera according to claim 5, wherein said detector detects the degree of correlation according to the ratio between the sum of the pixels and a predetermined number of pixels.

7. A digital camera according to claim 1, further
10 comprising a display for displaying the image sensed by the image sensing unit before shooting,

wherein said detector detects the degree of correlation from the image to be displayed by said display.

8. An exposure control method of a digital camera,
15 comprising the steps of:

sensing a subject image by an image sensing unit;

detecting a degree of correlation between image data of a plurality of frames from said image sensing unit before shooting;

20 in a case where the degree of correlation is low as a result of the detection, controlling an exposure time of said image sensing unit so as to be shorter than an exposure time in a case where the degree of correlation is high; and

recording image data from said controlled image sensing
25 unit.

9. A digital camera comprising:
an image sensing unit for sensing a subject image;
a detector for detecting a degree of correlation between
image data of a plurality of frames from said image sensing unit
5 before shooting;
a memory for storing a first program and a second program
to control an exposure time of said image sensing unit
respectively, wherein the exposure time based on the second
program is set to be shorter than the exposure time based on
10 the first program;
a selector for selecting the second program in the case
where the degree of correlation is lower than a predetermined
level; and
a recorder for recording image data from said image
15 sensing unit controlled based on the second program.

10. A digital camera according to claim 9, wherein said
selector selects the first program in the case where the
brightness of the subject is lower than a predetermined value.

11. An exposure control method of a digital camera,
20 comprising the steps of:
sensing a subject image by an image sensing unit;
detecting a degree of correlation between image data of
a plurality of frames from said image sensing unit before
shooting;
25 storing a first program and a second program to control

an exposure time of said image sensing unit respectively,
wherein the exposure time based on the second program is set
to be shorter than the exposure time based on the first program;

selecting the second program in the case where the degree
5 of correlation is lower than a predetermined level; and
recording image data from said image sensing unit
controlled based on the second program.

12. A digital camera comprising:

an image sensing unit for sensing a subject image;
10 a detector for detecting a degree of correlation between
image data of a plurality of frames from said image sensing unit
before shooting;

a memory for storing a first program and a second program
to control an aperture value of said image sensing unit
15 respectively, wherein the aperture value based on the second
program is set to be smaller than the aperture value based on
the first program;

a selector for selecting the second program in the case
where the degree of correlation is lower than a predetermined
20 level; and

a recorder for recording image data from said image
sensing unit controlled based on the second program.

13. A digital camera according to claim 12, wherein said
selector selects the first program in the case where the
25 brightness of the subject is lower than a predetermined value.

14. An exposure control method of a digital camera,
comprising the steps of:

sensing a subject image by an image sensing unit;

detecting a degree of correlation between image data of
5 a plurality of frames from said image sensing unit before
shooting;

storing a first program and a second program to control
an aperture value of said image sensing unit respectively,
wherein the aperture value based on the second program is set
10 to be smaller than the aperture value based on the first program;

selecting the second program in the case where the degree
of correlation is lower than a predetermined level; and

recording image data from said image sensing unit
controlled based on the second program.